

SERIAL NO.: 09/642,068
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Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

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1. (Canceled)
 2. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 27, 28, or 30, wherein said first and second oligonucleotides comprise oligonucleotides of known sequence.
 3. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 27, 28, 29 or 30, wherein said first and second oligonucleotides are labeled.
 4. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 3, wherein said first and second oligonucleotides bear different labels.
 5. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 27, 28 or 29, wherein said first and second oligonucleotides are attached covalently through said first and second linkers; respectively, to said substrate.
 6. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 27, 28 or 29, wherein said first and second oligonucleotides are synthesized on said substrate.
 7. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 27 or 30, wherein said substrate comprises discrete sites to which said first and second oligonucleotides may be linked.
 8. (Original) A method according to claim 7, wherein said first and second oligonucleotides are immobilized to first and second beads through first and second linkers, respectively, and wherein said first and second beads are distributed at said discrete sites.
 9. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 27, 29 or 30, further comprising synthesizing said first and second oligonucleotides on said substrate.

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10. (Original) The method according to claim 9, wherein said first and second oligonucleotides are synthesized by a synthesis method selected from the group consisting of printing and photolithography.

Claims 11-26 (Canceled)

27. (Amended) A method for multiplex detection of target nucleic acids comprising:

- a) providing a substrate [[and]] comprising at least first and second different oligonucleotides linked to said substrate through first and second cleavable linkers, respectively;
 - b) cleaving said first and second linkers, thereby releasing said first and second oligonucleotides from said substrate thereby generating a pool of oligonucleotides comprising said first and second different oligonucleotides; and
 - c) contacting said first and second oligonucleotides with a composition comprising at least a first and second target nucleic acid, whereby said first and second target nucleic acids hybridize with said first and second oligonucleotides whereby said target nucleic acids are detected.
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28. (Amended) A method for multiplex detection of target nucleic acids comprising:

- a) providing an array comprising a substrate and a population of oligonucleotides, said population comprising at least first and second subpopulations comprising at least first and second different oligonucleotides, respectively, said first and second oligonucleotides being immobilized to first and second beads, respectively, through first and second cleavable linkers, respectively, said first and second beads being distributed on said substrate;
- b) cleaving said first and second linkers, thereby releasing said first and second subpopulations from said first and second beads, thereby generating a pool of oligonucleotides comprising said first and second different oligonucleotides; and
- c) contacting said first and second oligonucleotides with a composition comprising at least a first and second target nucleic acid, whereby said first and second target nucleic acids

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hybridize with said first and second oligonucleotides whereby said target nucleic acids are detected.

29. (Amended) A method for multiplex detection of target nucleic acids comprising:

a) providing an array comprising a substrate and a population of oligonucleotides, said population comprising at least first and second subpopulations, wherein said first subpopulation comprises at least a first oligonucleotide and, wherein said second subpopulation comprises at least a second oligonucleotide, wherein said first oligonucleotide is different from said second oligonucleotide and, wherein said first and second oligonucleotides are of known sequence, said first and second oligonucleotides being immobilized directly to a chip said substrate through first and second cleavable linkers, respectively;

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b) cleaving said first and second linkers, thereby releasing said first and second subpopulations from said chip substrate, thereby generating a pool of oligonucleotides comprising said first and second oligonucleotides; and

c) contacting said first and second oligonucleotides with a composition comprising at least a first and second target nucleic acid, whereby said first and second target nucleic acids hybridize with said first and second oligonucleotides whereby said target nucleic acids are detected.

30. (Amended) A method for multiplex detection of target nucleic acids comprising:

a) cleaving at least first and second different oligonucleotides linked to a substrate through at least a first cleavable linker from said substrate, thereby releasing said first and second oligonucleotides from said substrate generating a pool of oligonucleotides comprising said first and second different oligonucleotides; and

b) contacting said first and second oligonucleotides with a composition comprising at least a first and second target nucleic acid, whereby said first and second target nucleic acids hybridize with said first and second oligonucleotides whereby said target nucleic acids are detected.

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31. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 30, wherein said first and second oligonucleotides are attached covalently through said cleavable linker to said substrate.

32. (Canceled)

33. (New) A method for multiplex detection of target nucleic acids comprising:

a) providing a substrate comprising at least first and second different oligonucleotides linked to said substrate through first and second cleavable linkers, respectively;

b) cleaving said first and second linkers, thereby releasing said first and second oligonucleotides from said substrate thereby generating a pool of oligonucleotides comprising said first and second different oligonucleotides;

c) contacting said first and second oligonucleotides with a first and second target nucleic acid; and

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d) detecting said target nucleic acid.

34. (New) A method for multiplex detection of target nucleic acids comprising:

a) providing an array comprising a substrate and a population of oligonucleotides, said population comprising at least first and second subpopulations comprising at least first and second different oligonucleotides, respectively, said first and second oligonucleotides being immobilized to first and second beads, respectively, through first and second cleavable linkers, respectively, said first and second beads being distributed on said substrate;

b) cleaving said first and second linkers, thereby releasing said first and second subpopulations from said first and second beads, thereby generating a pool of oligonucleotides comprising said first and second different oligonucleotides;

c) contacting said first and second oligonucleotides with a first and second target nucleic acid; and

d) detecting said target nucleic acids.

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35. (New) A method for multiplex detection of target nucleic acids comprising:

- a) cleaving at least first and second different oligonucleotides linked to a substrate through at least a first cleavable linker from said substrate, thereby releasing said first and second oligonucleotides from said substrate generating a pool of oligonucleotides comprising said first and second different oligonucleotides; and
- b) contacting said first and second oligonucleotides with a first and second target nucleic acid; and
- c) detecting said target nucleic acids

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36. (New) The method according to claim 27, 28, 29, 30, 33, 34 or 35, wherein said substrate is selected from the group consisting of glass, plastics, polysaccharides, nylon, nitrocellulose, resins, silica, silicon, carbon, and metals.

37. (New) The method according to claim 29, wherein said substrate comprises a chip.

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